

MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

Jan.-March, 2004, Vol. 14 No. 1

Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Volume	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Black Walnut	\$3,540	\$835	\$1,705	\$1,525	\$2,485	74 Int MBF	31
Red oak (group)	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$1,250	-	4 Int MBF	2
White oak (group)	\$1,330	\$905	\$1,055	\$1,250	-	6 Int MBF	4
Sawlogs							
Ash	\$250	\$90	\$210	\$90	\$65	35 Int MBF	6
Basswood	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$55	5 Int MBF	1
Black Walnut	\$750	\$210	\$450	\$555	\$390	115 Int MBF	20
Cottonwood	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$65	\$50	126 Int MBF	1
Elm	\$130	\$85	\$90	\$110	\$45	4 Int MBF	2
Gum	\$175	\$160	\$175	\$165	-	51 Int MBF	7
Hackberry	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$70	5 Int MBF	1
Hard Maple	\$165	\$40	\$135	-	-	11 Int MBF	2
Hickory	\$185	\$40	\$170	\$155	\$90	138 Int MBF	20
Mixed Hardwoods	\$230	\$10	\$160	\$160	\$115	2,826 Int MBF	27
Oak (mixed species)	\$335	\$85	\$145	\$150	\$135	1,036 Int MBF	17
Post Oak	\$175	\$50	\$150	\$155	\$110	136 Int MBF	20
Red oak (group)	\$400	\$75	\$195	\$165	\$180	3,176 Int MBF	41
River Birch	\$85	\$85	\$85	-	-	3 Int MBF	1
S Yellow Pine	\$180	\$50	\$145	\$130	\$95	264 Int MBF	17
Soft Maple	\$200	\$85	\$190	\$165	\$150	110 Int MBF	5
Sycamore	\$150	\$75	\$100	\$70	\$90	190 Int MBF	7
White oak (group)	\$515	\$75	\$215	\$145	\$145	817 Int MBF	33
Yellow Poplar	\$210	\$175	\$200	-	-	449 Int MBF	2
Fence Posts							
S Yellow Pine	60¢	60¢	60¢	62¢	-	21,000 Each	1
Pulpwood							
Mixed Hardwoods	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$1	\$1	2,131 Tons	1
Stave Logs							
White oak (group)	\$380	\$120	\$160	\$260	\$290	43 Int MBF	4

Comments

The total number of timber sales reported by foresters this quarter indicates a very active season for landowner assistance during the past quarter. A total of 66 individual timber sales were reported containing more than 9 million board feet, International Scale. Timber sales were reported from all geographic areas of the state and prices were reported for the majority of commercial species native to Missouri.

Weather conditions were generally not favorable for logging for much of the 1st Quarter, resulting in many sawmills suffering low log inventories heading into the Spring season. Logging activity is predicted to increase

with dryer conditions, but a wet Spring could result in serious log shortages, especially in northern and western Missouri. If you are planning to sell timber this Spring, be sure to include "wet weather" restrictions in your sale contracts to avoid the possibility of damages.

With more timber sales being reported, we can start to identify regional differences in prices paid for preferred species in a region. For example, white oak and walnut are preferred species in northern Missouri and logically should command better prices there than in other regions. Regional differences in stumpage prices are evident in this report. Please be sure to check the regional tables to get a better picture of markets in your area.

Ozark Stumpage Prices

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	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Volume	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Black Walnut	\$1,040	\$1,040	\$1,040	\$1,185	\$1,650	7 Int MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Ash	\$130	\$130	\$130	\$160	-	- Int MBF	1
Elm	\$130	\$130	\$130	\$160	-	- Int MBF	1
Gum	\$170	\$160	\$170	\$165	-	8 Int MBF	6
Hickory	\$185	\$60	\$165	\$175	\$95	53 Int MBF	16
Mixed Hardwoods	\$230	\$10	\$165	\$115	\$115	2,722 Int MBF	15
Oak (mixed species)	\$220	\$155	\$185	\$155	\$135	335 Int MBF	3
Post Oak	\$175	\$50	\$150	\$160	\$110	136 Int MBF	20
Red oak (group)	\$260	\$90	\$190	\$170	\$180	2,264 Int MBF	25
S Yellow Pine	\$180	\$50	\$145	\$130	\$95	264 Int MBF	17
Soft Maple	\$85	\$85	\$85	-	\$125	1 Int MBF	1
White oak (group)	\$250	\$75	\$190	\$185	\$140	244 Int MBF	20
Fence Posts							
S Yellow Pine	60¢	60¢	60¢	62¢	-	21,000 Pieces	1
Pulpwood							
Mixed Hardwoods	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$1	\$1	2,131 Tons	1

Comments

There are no surprises in the Ozark Region report this quarter. Timber stumpage prices all fall within a predictable range. Several large volume, high quality sales contributed to the "high" prices shown. The same is true for a few high quality sales that were reported as "mixed hardwoods." Although the author can't be certain, the high value shown in the table resulted from "mixed hardwood" and "mixed oak" sales in the Ozark region that contained large diameter, good quality red oak species. On the other end of the spectrum, the "low" prices shown in the tables were generally for salvage sales. It is also interesting that for the second successive quarter, no stave sales were reported for the Ozark region.

Pine sales reported were generally small volume, so the average value shown in the table may be somewhat high for general conditions. Pine markets have been depressed in Missouri for some time and prices generally do not reflect the true potential value of the good quality pine available.

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Riverborder Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Volume.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Black Walnut	\$1,915	\$1,040	\$1,485	\$2,090	\$1,420	19 Int MBF	7
White oak (group)	\$1,330	\$905	\$1,065	-	-	4 Int MBF	3
Sawlogs							
Ash	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$100	_	25 Int MBF	2
Black Walnut	\$625	\$210	\$385	\$540	\$350	35 Int MBF	8
Gum	\$175	\$175	\$175	-	_	42 Int MBF	1
Hard Maple	\$165	\$165	\$165	-	-	8 Int MBF	1
Hickory	\$185	\$175	\$180	\$100	_	79 Int MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	\$210	\$50	\$80	\$280	\$60	36 Int MBF	5
Oak (mixed species)	\$200	\$85	\$135	\$130	\$125	493 Int MBF	7
Red oak (group)	\$400	\$140	\$235	\$125	\$90	472 Int MBF	7
Soft Maple	\$140	\$140	\$140	-	\$140	4 Int MBF	1
Sycamore	\$150	\$85	\$120	-	\$100	70 Int MBF	4
White oak (group)	\$515	\$110	\$265	\$125	\$100	299 Int MBF	6
Yellow Poplar	\$210	\$175	\$200	-	-	449 Int MBF	2
Stave Logs							
White oak (group)	\$380	\$120	\$160	-	-	43 Int MBF	4

Comments

My first thought in looking at prices in the River Border Region table is to remind readers that all stumpage values in this report are converted to International ¼" Scale. Since the Doyle Scale is the predominant scale used by loggers and sawmills in this region, some of the prices may not be similar to those quoted by timber buyers. Remember, the bottom line value of standing timber is not dependent on the scale used, but rather on the quality and size of the timber being offered. If you don't regularly sell standing timber log scales, log grades, and forestry terminology may be confusing, so my advice is to get assistance from a professional forester for an unbiased estimate of your timber's value. That will better prepare you to evaluate any offers you receive for your standing timber.

High quality red oak and white oak continues to dominate markets in this regions (and the others as well). Grade hickory logs are still selling well compared to past years. Several sycamore sales were reported at higher prices than we have seen in other areas. Two nice sales of Yellow poplar were also reported at what appears to be good prices. We don't see enough reports of yellow-poplar stumpage values to evaluate it well, but hopefully we will see more in the future.

Shelby Jones, Editor

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 66 timber sales containing over 9 million board feet located throughout the state.

Editor's Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: www.missouriforesters.com

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs and Veneer Logs
Pulpwood Pine
Hardwood (hard)
Hardwood (soft)

Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
5,200 lbs/cord
5,600 lbs/cord
4,200 lbs/cord

Timber Products Output Survey Underway

Every three years, Forestry Division-Mo. Dept. of Conservation in cooperation with the U S Forest Service conducts a canvas of all Missouri wood processing facilities that utilize roundwood products of Missouri forests. This survey, known as the Timber Products Output Survey (TPO) is part of the continuous measurement of the state's timber resources which compiles statistics about the extent, health, and future aspects of our forests. The TPO survey is designed to compile the amount of timber harvested by species and county for the previous calendar year. The current TPO survey began in late February utilizing consulting foresters to collect the harvest information. It is approximately 50% complete. Results will be available near the end of 2004.

All the collected data is compiled and analyzed by the North Central Experiment Station, USFS. Results are published and available free to interested individuals or organizations. Computerized databases containing aggregated information are also accessible through a U. S. Forest Service web site: http://ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/fiadb/rpa_tpo/wc_rpa_tpo.ASP.

The most recent completed survey was conducted in 2001 for calendar year 2000. A summary report of the results is available from the Dept. of Conservation upon request. You can obtain a free copy from your local MDC office by asking for: *Missouri Timber Industry-An Assessment of Timber Product Output and Use*, 2000. Below are some highlights from that report:

In 2000, Missouri's primary wood-using industry consisted of 403 sawmills, 8 cooperage mills, 8 post mills, 6 charcoal plants, 4 handle mills, 1 veneer mill, 1 pulp mill, and 9 mills producing other products.

Primary wood-using mills in Missouri processed 127 million cubic feet of industrial roundwood, a decrease of 9% from 1997.

Ninety-three percent of the roundwood processed was cut from Missouri's forests.

Sawlogs accounted for 88% of the total roundwood processed.

Forty-five percent of the total harvest came from the Eastern Ozarks Region.

Red oak species accounted for 48% of the total timber harvested; white oak species were second in popularity at 27%.

Prairie Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Volume	# of Rpts.
_	Iligii	LOW	Avg.	Last Qti.	Last II.	Volume	# of Kpts.
Veneer							
Black Walnut	\$3,540	\$835	\$1,900	\$1,700	\$2,730	47 Int MBF	23
Red oak (group)	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$1,250	-	4 Int MBF	2
White oak (group)	\$1,040	\$1,040	\$1,040	\$1,250	-	2 Int MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Ash	\$250	\$90	\$120	\$85	\$65	10 Int MBF	3
Basswood	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$55	5 Int MBF	1
Black Walnut	\$750	\$335	\$485	\$625	\$405	80 Int MBF	12
Cottonwood	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$65	\$50	126 Int MBF	1
Elm	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$65	\$45	3 Int MBF	1
Hackberry	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$65	5 Int MBF	1
Hard Maple	\$40	\$40	\$40	-	-	3 Int MBF	1
Hickory	\$150	\$40	\$130	\$65	\$50	6 Int MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	\$115	\$40	\$75	\$65	\$45	67 Int MBF	7
Oak (mixed species)	\$335	\$85	\$110	-	\$170	208 Int MBF	7
Red oak (group)	\$375	\$75	\$180	\$135	\$140	440 Int MBF	9
River Birch	\$85	\$85	\$85	-	-	3 Int MBF	1
Soft Maple	\$200	\$140	\$190	\$165	\$160	106 Int MBF	3
Sycamore	\$100	\$75	\$90	\$65	\$55	120 Int MBF	3
White oak (group)	\$400	\$85	\$190	\$135	\$185	273 Int MBF	7

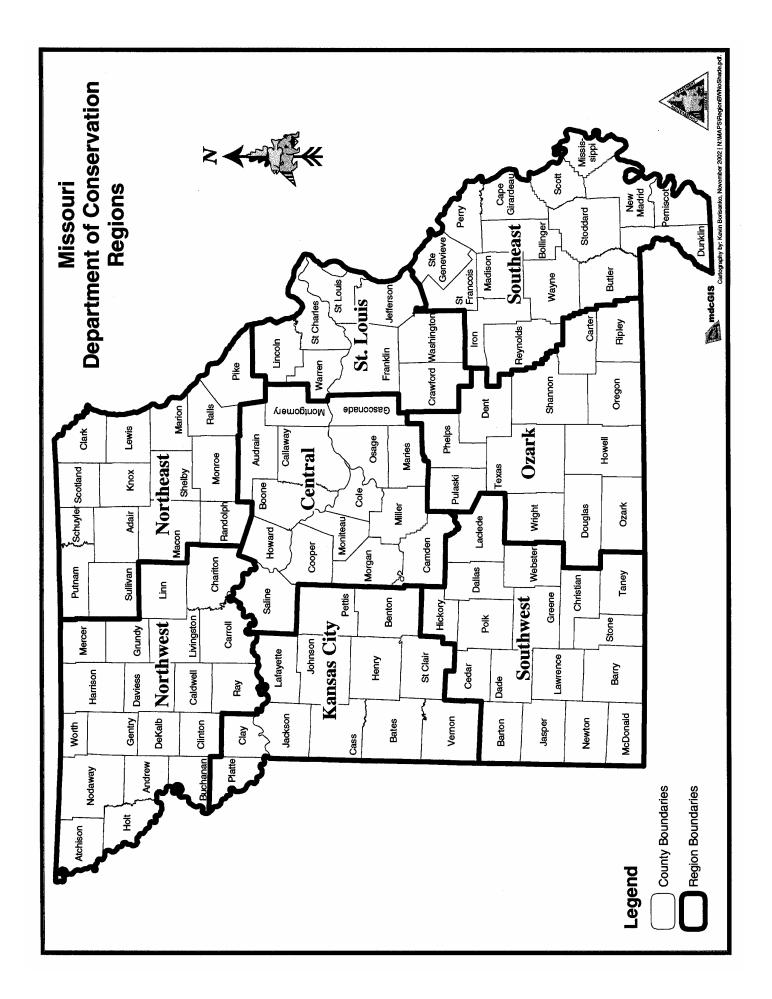
Comments

Walnut veneer logs were bringing good average prices in the Prairie Region as is usually the case during the winter months. It appears that many sales were held for first quarter bidding by landowners who were thinking of income tax implications. Income from timber sales can be significant, so it is wise to plan for it when other income sources are down.

Soft hardwood species prices have generally increased slightly in the region, possibly reflecting increased demand for logs resulting from lower logging activity. This might continue into Spring, so there might be an opportunity to receive premium prices if you have a soft hardwood sale prepared and acreage that can be logged in wet weather.

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Address Correction Requested